

Message Text

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60
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-01 SCS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SCA-01 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 IO-10 DLOS-03 INRE-00 /068 R

DRAFTED BY ARA: H SHLAUDERMAN: W.S. CLARKE

APPROVED BY ARA: HSHLAUDERMAN

ARA-LA/EP - S.M. PRINGLE (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, EC

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF FISHING VESSELS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. DELEGATION REPRESENTING TUNABOAT OWNERS, CANNERS AND ZAPATA MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY MAW AFTERNOON 29 JANUARY. GROUP MADE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OUTLINING PLIGHT OF TUNA INDUSTRY IN LIGHT OF SEIZURES UNDER NEW LAW. CONFISCATION OF CATCH IN PARTICULAR POSES HIGHLY TROUBLESOME ISSUES OF TECHNICAL, COMMERCIAL AND LEGAL NATURE. WE FORESEE MOUNTING CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN THESE MATTERS OVER THE DAYS AHEAD.

2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE HIGHEST AVAIL-
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ABLE LEVELS OF THE GOE THE CONCERN OF THE USG. YOU MAY

DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. USG FIRMLY PROTESTS SEIZURE OF U.S. FLAG FISHING VESSELS IN OCEAN WATERS OFF THE COAST OF ECUADOR.
- B. AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR IS AWARE, THE QUESTION OF THE JURISDICTION OF COASTAL STATES OVER CERTAIN SPECIES OF MARINE FISHES IS CURRENTLY THE SUBJECT OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATION ON THE BROADEST INTERNATIONAL PLANE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.N.-SPONSORED LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, SOON TO RECONVENE IN GENEVA.
- C. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE RECENT SEIZURES RAISE TENSIONS AND COMPLICATE THESE NEGOTIATIONS.
- D. THE DECISION OF THE GOE TO CONFISCATE THE CATCH ON BOARD THE VARIOUS VESSELS REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL AGGRAVATION TO OUR DIFFERENCES OVER FISHING RIGHTS IN THE OCEAN WATERS OFF ECUADOR. WE DEEPLY REGRET THIS DECISION AND THAT PROVISION OF ECUADOREAN LAW ON WHICH IT IS BASED. OUR MOST IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THE DELAY THE ARRANGEMENTS ATTENDANT TO THE CONFISCATION OF CATCH MAY CAUSE IN THE RELEASE OF THE U.S. VESSELS AND THEIR CREWS. WE URGE THE GOE TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE ACTION TO EXPEDITE THE DEPARTURE OF THE VESSELS.

3. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS OF DEMARCHE ASAP. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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